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CIVILIAN WAR CASUALTIES IN VIETNAM

At December 4, 1969 briefing in Saigon, U.S. spokesman in answer to December 3 queries, gave Mission comment as follows re Kennedy's statement on Vietnamese civilian casualties.

Mission shares Kennedy's concern. Mission unaware Kennedy's sources except as stated in press reports. Said Mission keeps records of specific efforts which involve U.S. programs but not statistics of type referred to by Kennedy.

Mission figure for civilian war casualties treated in U.S. and Vietnamese medical facilities total 198,338 for three-year 1967-69 period.

Vietnamese national police report 16,129 civilian deaths due enemy terrorist activities for four-year 1966-69 period but this terror fatality figure does not include about 10,000 civilians killed by enemy action in February 1968 Tet offensive.

Dept of State
December 4, 1969